SEPT 1974

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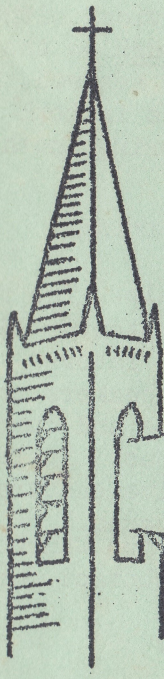

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

SPECIAL INVITATION.....to.....
attend the Harvest Thanksgiving Services either at Milnrow on the 15th or Littleborough on the 22nd. Times of great upliftment are assured, and the children, young people and adults in both churches will take part. Come and bring another!

*

A Notice has come to the Manse concerning
"CHRISTIAN RENDEZ-VOUS"
to be held at Champness Hall, Rochdale. The first of these meetings is on Saturday, September 14th at 7.30 pm. We understand these are inter-denominational and various outside speakers are to be invited. Special musical items and community singing are included in the programmes. It is hoped these rallies will be a positive encouragement for Christians in the Rochdale area.
A party will be going from our two Churches. Will any who are interested please contact our Minister.
Let's go and give it a try, eh?

*

GOOD WISHES....to a number of our young folk who will be starting in a new School during September. This in itself can be quite an ordeal. We do wish them well and pray for great success in their further studies.

*

'THE MESSENGER' is read by many people in many parts of this country and possibly it even travels overseas. A remark received from a reader concerning last month's issue was ..."it's got a lot of news. That's good."
Do you know of anyone you feel "The Messenger" would interest and help? If so why not ensure that they receive a copy each month!

All material for OCTOBER issue required by 18th Sept Please!

From the Manse

September, 1974

My dear friends,

What is your favourite season of the year? Some like the long, hot summer days, but others say Autumn is the best time of all, for the countryside is full of the colours of leaves, berries and fruits. Autumn is indeed a lovely time. It is then that Nature spreads all her wealth before us and it is ours for the taking. God has ordained it so to be.

One of the joyous festivals which the Church keeps is that of Harvest, and we bring gifts of the fruits of the earth as a thank-offering for all He has given to us. It is easy to see these gifts of God for every field and hedge and tree, every garden and allotment plot show them to us. There are other gifts of God to us which don't exactly grow on trees, but are there for us to enjoy nevertheless. These are the gifts of the spirit. The greatest of which is that of enjoying a spiritual fellowship with God in Jesus Christ.

Usually we think of Winter as being the last of the year's seasons, but it isn't so really. Autumn comes at the end of the cycle of planting, germination and growth. It is then that we reap the reward of our labours.

The Bible speaks quite often about the gathering in of the harvest. Not only the harvest of Nature, but of the harvest of the Spirit. Some people may not be able to understand this, but it is really a simple parallel. Just as the seeds of earthly fruit are sown, so is the seed of spiritual fruit. Just as the gardener cares about things he is growing in his garden, so must we care about growing in spiritual matters. A garden neglected will soon go to weeds and produce nothing of value. This sort of thing can happen far too easily - a little neglect here and there - I'm too tired to do this or that today. It is just the same in the garden of our life. We can reap a very disappointing harvest all too easily.

As the year draws towards its end in the harvest time, we might well think what the harvest of our own lives might be. Will the fruits we have brought forth give us happiness or shall we feel that we have not made the best use of the opportunities we have had - especially of coming to God.

May He bless you all.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

Thought for the month:-

And another seed fell on good ground and sprang up and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when Jesus had siad these things He cried....."He that hath ears to hear - let him hear".

Luke 8: v.8

A Negro woman's prayer went like this.....

"Dear Lord, please help me to remember that there ain't nothing coming my way that you and I together can't handle".

++++++

The late D. Kagawa once remarked.....
"Sad to think that Jesus spent His life going about doing good, while I spend my life just going about".

Littleborough announcements (Cont. from page 11)

A SOCIAL EVENING is being arrange for
Saturday, 2nd November
Please keep this date free!

*

Please start saving your Jumble for the Womens Guild Sale in October.

HOLY BAPTISM

On Sunday, 4th August at St. Stephen's:

CAROLINE LOUISE SCOTT, daughter of John and Zana Scott.

+++May God bless this little child+++

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HOLY MATRIMONY

On Saturday, 3rd August at St. Stephen's:

CHRISTINE OLIVIA MAUD NASH, daughter of Rev. & Mrs. Nash, to JAMES WAYNE COX of Chichester, Sussex.
Officiating Minister: Rev. R.A.C.West M.A.

ANN WHITTAKER, daughter of Mr. Leslie and Mrs. Gwen Whittaker, to ERIC DOBSON of Rochdale.
Officiating Minister: Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.

+++May God richly bless these unions+++

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THANKSGIVING POUND FUND

A reminder that your Thanksgiving Pound will be received at the HARVEST SERVICES at Milnrow, on Sunday, September 15th. If you have not already added your name to the list in the Schoolroom for this effort, and feel led to do so, please do not hesitate. These Pounds are all given as a "Thank-you" for God's many gifts we so freely receive.

Gifts of fruit will be received during the Festival Service on Sunday morning.

If you intend to give flowers, we should be grateful if you could bring them between 3.30 and 5.00 pm., on Saturday, 14th September, in order that they may be tastefully arranged ready for the Sunday Services.

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Watch for further details of the THRIFT SHOP to be held in October. In the meantime please save any good quality items which you no longer require.

YOUNG MUMS .....

A reminder to all Mums - we re-open on Wednesday, September 18th at 2.0 pm. "Young Mums" is for all ladies who would like to spend an hour in friendship with us. Young children not at School are cared for by a band of very loyal ladies from our Church. (A big 'thank you' here to those ladies). A varied programme has been arranged - and a welcome awaits you. Do come!

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A SPECIAL WELCOME to the new additions to Junior Church.

If you happen to know of any children not already coming under the care of a church, please invite them to join us on Sunday mornings at 11.0 am.

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LADIES GUILD

A very happy evening was spent on the occasion of our August meeting, when we were given a helpful message by Mrs. Bessie Evans.

We shall meet next on Tuesday, September 3rd - and the evening will take the form of "A Surprise Night". We are looking forward to being surprised by members of the Guild - so put your thinking caps on and see what you can concoct for your surprise to us all.

Ladies who are not Guild members are cordially invited to come and join us. We have room for you all.

* * *

A Ladies Guild Committee Meeting will be held in the Manse on Thursday, September 5th at 8.0 pm. If anybody has any ideas concerning future programmes please hand them in at our next Guild Meeting on September 3rd. Thank you!

The EFFORTS COMMITTEE have been busy arranging a variety of activities at St. Stephen's during the last few months, with more to come.....

.....The DANCE on Friday, July 26th, proved a successful venture. Old Time and Modern Dancing were enjoyed to records, with Mr. Kenneth Hey officiating as M.C.

The proceeds amounted to £14.00

.....The PLANT AND SLIDE SHOW on the 9th August provided the indoor gardener with an abundance of plants to choose from at "special offer" prices. Our grateful thanks to all those who raided their greenhouses and brought their plants along to sell. This event was organised by Mr. Harry Mellor, who also during the evening, showed holiday slides of Spain and Majorca.

The financial result was £14.00

.....The WHIST DRIVES at present being held on Monday evenings, under the supervision of Mr. Alec Rae, have raised approx. £24.00 to date.
Many thanks to Alec and those who help each week, and also to those who give their continued weekly support.

.....By the time you read this the SPONSORED WALK will have taken place. We hope to have a report on this in our next issue.

.....Don't forget the next event to come, which will be the PALM COURT on Saturday, 28th September. This will commence at 7.30 p.m., and will be a Musical Evening, during which light refreshments will be served.....Admission 20p.

.....Watch our for the LANCASHIRE NEET in October!

JUNIOR CHURCH NEWS - Milnrow

You are invited to an OPEN EVENING on Friday, 20th September from 7.0 - 9.0 pm. (No charge).

Work done during the last 12 months in Junior Church will be on display in the various departments

Since no practical visual work is done in the Young People's department, their contribution will be to see that you are served with light refreshment during the evening. They will also take part in the presentation of musical items by the "Envoys".

*

You may have seen the small map of South America displayed recently in the Junior Dept., and wondered what the 60p was for, which was recorded by putting stickers on a square for each penny collected. During the course about 'the church overseas', we had been looking at our neighbours in Latin America and how they lived. The 60p, which has now been sent to the British and Foreign Bible Society, will buy 4 copies of the New Testament in any language they may require.

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There is a story of a minister who dreamed that he was invited to visit Heaven and was shown round by an angel. Being a Scotsman, the minister's first question was,
"May I see all the Prebyterians you have up here?"
But the angel shook his head.
"No Presbyterians," replied the angel.
The minister was taken aback but thought he'd press on.
"Any Baptists in Heaven?" he enquired. "Or Roman Catholics or Methodists?"
The answer was invariably in the negative.
"Well, then," said the dreaming minister, "Who have you got up here?"
"Up here," said the angel, "we have only people who loved the Lord."

(Taken from the Friendship Book of Francis Gay)

WORLD CHURCH NEWS

A WORD IN SEASON. There was great rejoicing in the mountains of southern Taiwan last Spring. The Paiwans, one of the five main tribal peoples at last had a New Testament in their own language. For over twenty years translators had wrestled with the problems of trying to match the 20th century tribal language of a Pacific island to the ideas of the first century mediterranian world. Greek scholars and Paiwan leaders struggled together in thousands of hours of suggestion, debate and correction. The gospel of Mark came out in 1959 and other books, including hymn books, prayers and Old Testament selections have followed. Now one Testament at least is complete.

To God be the glory.

CONFLICT IN JAPAN. Theology certainly seems to be relevant in Japan - some might think too relevant. For several years tremendous arguments have been going on, particularly among theological students, of whom there are many times more than the Churches can possibly absorb as full-time ministers. The issue is whether the Church should accept the framework of society as it is and live within it, or struggle for a radical transformation. There has been such a clash of opinion, including demonstrations, strikes and lock-outs, that one big Tokyo university had decided to close its theological department; theology had become too controversial. The decision has brought protests from a number of famous German and Swiss theologians, who express dismay at the harm which would be done to Japanese Christianity. The Church has been having a difficult time too. The United Church had to cancel its annual assembly for three years running because of theological disputes. It finally met at the end of 1973; so perhaps more peaceful times are on the way.

(Please remember in your prayers daily, all Christians in other lands).

N.W. PILOT CAMP '74

Members of the Littleborough Pilot Company have recently spent another enjoyable week-end at the Pilot Camp, as you will gather from the following extract from their report:

Wendy Law begins:

"I arrived at camp at about 3.15 pm.....
One incident that I can remember was when the boys attacked the girls with plastic bags which were full of water. The girls began to scream and shout for help. The owner of the camp came out of his house and told the boys off. The girls just crept into the girls' dormitories quickly and quietly."

Mrs. Vincent continues:

"What does a week at Pilot Camp do for you?
It leaves you so tired you could sleep for a week!
.....Why so tired?
Well each day starts with Family Prayers at 8.10 am and one watch has to lay breakfast tables before that. Planned activities only finish at 9.30 pm., so it is a long hard-working day. It is also great fun and some of the fun continues well after 9.30 pm - so you can't go to sleep, you might miss something!"

Beverley Merrick says:

"The best thing about this camp was hoisting Barrie Russel's and John Evqn's pyjamas and sleeping bags up the glaf pole!....."

Beverley Allison writes:

"The Scavenger Hunt was done in eight watches.
We had a long list of items to find, plus an envelop which was not to be opened until a specific time.
One thing was to make a list of all female officers in camp in order of age!".....

Lindsay Merrick concludes:

After the Concert many Officers received something. Hilary and Lynne received lollies for being suckers to come to camp with young children, and "an extra pair of hands" -rubber gloves- to help cope with those children. Mrs. Kendall received an extra pair of feet - shoe soles - as she is always running this way or that thoughout Camp."

PILOTS ENTERTAIN (at Littleborough)

Everyone enjoyed the Pilots Concert which, we understand, was definately all their own work. Lots of original ideas with one or two celebrities putting in an appearance; chief amongst them being Michael Crawford of "Some mothers do 'ave 'em" fame, who was the subject of "This is your Life." We were also delighted with dancing by Pans People, vocal selections from "New Faces" and musical selections from "The Faithfuls." To all those who took part we say 'WELL DONE', and don't forget if you have a talent (and you certainly have) if you don't use it you lose it. More please, and thank you for your efforts and the pleaseure you gave. The proceeds, which amounted to £16, were towards the cost of the visit to camp.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES
Sunday, 22nd September
Preacher: Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.

10.30 am. "GOD'S GRACIOUS GIFTS"
Organist: Miss Lindsay Merrick

6.00 pm. THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Organist: Mr. A. Clegg

Gifts of fruit and flowers will be received on Saturday, 21st September from 2.30 -3.30 pm.

PROFIT OR LOSS?

At the Church Meeting in July it was reported that the Church was making a loss of £170.93 for the half-year up to the 30th June. Last year at the 30th June there was a profit og £4.96.

As we all know from our home accounts, costs have increased, so also have the Church accounts. Could you, and would you consider increasing your giving to the Church? Every little helps and would be appreciat

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Announcements of future events: see page 4

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

Sept. 1st	Mr. J. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins
8th	Mr. A. Bruskshaw	Mrs. A. Baines
15th	Mrs. P. Royle	Mrs. A. Baines
22nd	M	Mrs. F. Rae
29th	Counc. I. Royle	Mr. A. Rae
Oct. 6th	Mrs. F. Butterworth	Mr. H. Mellor

ELDERS ROTA EVENING DOOR STEWARDS		ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
Sept. 1st	Mrs. M. Howarth	Mr. D. Logan
8th		
15th	Mr. R. Gillon Mr. J. Emmott	Mr. A. Clegg
22nd	Mrs. N. Settle	Mrs. E. Starkie
29th	Mr. J. Wild	Mrs. C. Hey
Oct. 6th	Mrs. E. Gillon	Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

Sept. 1st	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. K. Hey
Oct. 6th	Mr. R. Gillon	Miss M. Wood

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Sept. 1st	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth
8th	Mrs. A. Wood	Mrs. A. Collins
15th	Mrs. H. Whitehead	Mrs. Greenhalgh
22nd	Mrs. E. Garside	Mrs. J. Calow
29th	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. M. Mellor
Oct. 6th	Mrs. J. Cudworth	Mrs. N. Settle

People unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

OFFERTORIES

	Cash			
	am.	pm.	Envelopes	Total
July 7th	4.13	2.13	26.08	32.34
14th	6.35	2.03	18.50	26.88
21st	5.87	5.00	13.59	24.46
28th	4.88	2.00	12.75	19.63
	£21.23	£11.16	£70.92	£103.31

CHURCH DUITES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Sept. 1st	Mr. J. Holt	Mr. F. Beattie	
8th	CLOSED - HOLIDAYS		
15th	Mr. J. Nairn	Mr. F. Ingham	
22nd	Mr. H.W. Hill	Mrs. Crossley	am.
	Mr. E. Holt	Mr. J. Lord	pm.
29th	Mr. J. Hill	Mrs. Stott	
Oct. 6th	Mr. F. Beattie	Mr. J. Holt	

COFFEE ROTA

Sept. 1st	W. Spinks	J. Hobbs
8th	CLOSED - HOLIDAYS	
15th	H. Vincent	J. Simpson
22nd	S. Moss	B. Hartley
29th	K. Hill	D. Mallinson
Oct. 6th	B. Holt	J. Law

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FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Sept. 1st	"Amendable to God" Psalm 119: 33-40	M. Law
8th	"Jesus the healer" Luke 4: 38,39,42-44.	
15th	"Jeus the teacher" Luke 5: 27-32	H. Vincent
22nd	"Jesus the story-maker" Luke 8: 4-10	P. Lightfoot
29th	"Jesus the Lord" Luke 6: 43-49	M.G. Hill
Oct. 6th		M. Grindrod

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ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

September

Sun.	1st	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	Service of Word & Sacrament
Mon.	2nd	7.30 pm.	and each Monday: Whist Drive
		7.45 pm.	District Lay Preachers Fellowship at Milton U,R.C.
Tues.	3rd	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild: Surprise night.
Sun.	8th	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	"
Wed.	11th	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Sat.	14th	3.30 - 5.0 pm.	Reception of Flowers, etc for Harvest.
Sun.	15th	11.00 am.)	HARVEST FESTIVAL
		6.00 pm.)	Rev. A. Nash
Mon.	16th	7.30 pm.	Finance Committee
Wed.	18th	2.00 pm.	Young Mums Group
Fri.	20th	7.00 pm.	Junior Church Open Evening
Sun.	22nd	11.00 am.	Mr. H. Pearson
		6.00 pm.	Pay Preacher
Mon.	23rd	7.30 pm.	Elders and Church Visitors
Wed.	25th	2.00 pm.	Young Mums Group
		7.30 pm.	Church Meeting
Sat.	28th	10.30 am.	District Lay Preachers Conference at Bamford U.R.C.
		7.30 pm.	Palm Court Evening
Sun.	29th	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	"

October

Fri.	4th	7.30 pm.	Come Dancing
Sun.	6th	11.00 am.	To be announced
		6.00 pm.	"

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Sept.	1st	Mrs. A. Whitworth	
	8th	Mrs. A. Travis	Miss J. Reed
	15th	HARVEST	
	22nd	Mrs. D. Bruckshaw	
	29th	Mrs. D. Brewin	
Oct.	6th	Mrs. D. Hey	

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

September			
Sun.	1st	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Fri.	6th	7.30 pm.	District Meeting at Hallfold
Sun.	8th		Closed for Holidays
Sun.	15th	10.30 am.	Mrs. Nash
Tues.	17th	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild: Mrs. Lord (Lancashire Dialect)
Wed.	18th	6.45 pm.	Pilots recommence
Sun.	22nd		HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES
		10.30 am.	"God's Precious Gifts"
		6.00 pm.	Thanksgiving Service
Tues.	24th		Coffee evening & Holiday Stall Beetle Drive & Slide Show, etc.
Wed.	25th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Thur.	26th	7.30 pm.	Mens Fellowship
Sun.	29th	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
October			
Tues.	1st	7.30 pm.	Church Meeting
Sun.	6th	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Sept.	1st	Mrs. Holt & Mrs. Cockcroft
	8th	CLOSED
	15th	Mrs. J. Shackleton
	22nd	HARVEST
	29th	Mrs. Nairn
Oct.	6th	Mrs. Lightfoot

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OFFERTORIES

		Cash	Envelopes
July	7th	£1.79	£22.43
	14th	£3.11	£15.35
	21st	£2.72½	£11.02½
	28th	£1.97	£15.05

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*

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Counc. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ.),
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*

HOSPITAL VISITORS:

MILNROW:

Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory
Mrs. N. Settle

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